



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

consideration of this problem would doubtless have carried the discussion too wide afield. And yet some of the fundamental problems of life insurance lie in that direction.

An occasional bit of careless rhetoric and even, now and then, a slip in syntax, are perhaps fairly to be ascribed to the lack of thorough proofreading: unfortunately we all make these slips.

H. J. DAVENPORT

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

---

### NOTICES

*Building Societies.* By SIR EDWARD BRABROOK. London: P. S. King, 1906. 16mo, pp. 160.

The author, late Registrar of Friendly Societies, has undertaken to write "a brief, popular treatise developing the social value of building societies, and advocating their extension on right principles." The importance of the building-societies movement in England may be inferred from the following figures for 1904: number of societies registered, 2,075; membership, 609,785; income, £38,729,009; mortgages held, £53,196,112; other assets, £14,952,485. The author discusses the building society as a social agent, as a means of thrift, as a matter of business. He points out certain dangers to be avoided, and concludes that the building societies of England, having profited by the severe lessons of past experience, have entered upon a career of continuous improvement.

---

*The Industrial Revolution.* By CHARLES BEARD. With a Preface by F. YORK POWELL. London: Swan, Sonnenschein & Co., 1906. 16mo, pp. xix+105.

This is a second reprint of Mr. Beard's essay upon *The Industrial Revolution*, practically unrevised since the last issue. The author's purpose, in which he has succeeded well, has been to "supply a concise and inexpensive outline of the industrial revolution as a guide to students seeking for the first time the historical basis of modern social and economic problems." Written primarily for the working-man, there is, as Professor Powell observes, "in its plain pages and its straightforward substance a good deal of food for thought, a good deal that is worth remembering, a good deal that is of the nature of guidance and warning." The author deals with the commoner facts of industrial history since 1760.

---

*L'Assistance aux vieillards, infirmes et incurables, en France: La loi du 14 juillet 1905.* Par ALBERT REVILLION. Préface de M. PAUL BEAUREGARD. Paris: Larose, 1906. 8vo, pp. vi+247

Under the law of July 14, 1905, taking effect January 1, 1907, France has provided compulsory assistance for the aged, the invalid, and the incurable. M. Revillon gives a brief account of conditions and legislation prior to 1905, but devotes the greater portion of his treatise to an exposition of the law, which as a piece of social legislation is in many respects comparable in its significance

to the provision of compulsory insurance in Germany. The details of the law are generally familiar. The burden of this relief is put upon the local governments, so far as possible. Each commune must determine what income is to be regarded as necessary to procure in that community the means of subsistence; to this income, any indigent Frenchman, aged more than seventy years, or sick of an incurable disease, or incapable of self-support, may prefer a claim. The law not only compels the granting of relief, but establishes the right of individuals falling into one of the specified categories to demand support, and provides courts in which he may prefer his claim. M. Revillon discusses the practical difficulties which are likely to be encountered, and raises question as to the ultimate effect of this relief: Will it discourage individual thrift? How will it react upon schemes of insurance, compulsory or voluntary? It is, he believes, in the direction of social progress.

---

*Der Staat als Schuldner: Fünf Volkshochschulvorträge.* Von LEON ZEITLIN. Mit einer Tabelle-Beilage. Tübingen: Laup, 1906. 8vo, pp. viii+108.

In these five lectures the author discusses the elementary principles involved in the maintenance of public credit. Lecture I treats of the occasions of borrowing, the bases of public credit, and the economic and political significance of indebtedness. The second lecture describes the forms of indebtedness—as funded, floating, and non-interest bearing, including legal-tender paper money. Following chapters deal with the technique of interest payments, conversions, refunding, and redemption. In the final lecture is given a brief historical account of public debts, and of their present amounts in the more important countries of the world. This is supplemented by some general statistical tables. The author's purpose is rather to popularize than to advance the difficult science of public finance.

---

*The Practice of Diplomacy as Illustrated in the Foreign Relations of the United States.* By JOHN W. FOSTER. Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin & Co., 1906. 8vo, pp. 401.

This work treats of the utility of the diplomatic service; the rank, appointment, reception, immunities, and duties of diplomatic agents; court dress, decorations, and presents; the negotiation, ratification, interpretation and termination of treaties. There are two final chapters on arbitration and its procedure, and international claims. The author tells us in his preface that the present work is designed as a companion volume and complement of his *Century of American Diplomacy*. "As the latter sought to show the influence exerted by the United States in the framing and improvement of international law, the present work is intended, primarily, to set forth the part taken by American diplomatists in the elevation and purification of diplomacy; and, secondarily, to give in popular form, through such a narrative, the rules and procedures of diplomatic intercourse. While it is prepared for the general reader, numerous citations of authorities are given to enable the student to pursue his investigation by an examination of the original sources of information." With this purpose in mind the author has accomplished his task well.

*The Pattern Nation.* By SIR HENRY WRIXON. London and New York: Macmillan, 1906. 8vo, pp. 172.

The fate of our present civilization is conceived by Sir Henry Wrixon to depend upon the answer which democracy makes to the question: What will the poor do with the rich. "Democracy, the reign of the masses under some form, is its destiny." In this connection is quoted Macaulay's statement that "universal suffrage is incompatible, not with this or that form of government, but with all forms of government, and with everything for the sake of which forms of government exist; that it is incompatible with property, and that it is consequently incompatible with civilization." In the United States the "machines," the Constitution, and the Supreme Court, together with the use and misuse of accumulated wealth for political purposes, and a spirit of individualism have thus far inhibited the practical working-out of the popular will; but those checks cannot be expected to be permanently effective. Ultimately the people will yield to "the charm of political relief for industrial ills." The pattern nation makes its socialist experiments, but when the "delusive experiences of semi-socialism" are lived through, choice must be made between freedom and socialism. The people will in that crisis choose freedom. "But if they do not, what then? . . . Why, in that case it will be made clear that the present era of civilization has run its appointed course. The element of progress will be gone. Things move quickly in our time, and the present century will see either socialism discredited or Europe declining." In an appendix the demands of the labor party in England are cited in evidence that the revolution feared by Macaulay is already begun.

---

*Mexico's Treasure House (Guanajuato): An Illustrated and Descriptive Account of the Mines and Their Operations in 1906.* By PERCY F. MARTIN. 44 pages illustrations; 6 panoramic views; 2 maps and diagrams. New York: The Cheltenham Press, 1906. 8vo, pp. 259+vi.

Except for the presumption that Mr. Martin's account is disinterested and true, though exceedingly enthusiastic, this elaborately gotten-up book might be the gilt-edge prospectus of a syndicate to take over certain mining properties, with a view to floating them upon the public. As one reads, one has a subconscious feeling that the following page or chapter will uncover the proposition; but as no scheme develops, the conclusion is finally forced upon one that here are great treasures which the investing public, excepting the late Cecil Rhodes, has somehow not appreciated at their full value. Cecil Rhodes declared himself to be "not blind to the unison of opinion as expressed by scientists and experts that Mexico will one day furnish the gold, silver, and copper of the world; that from her hidden vaults, her subterranean treasure-houses, will come the gold, silver, copper, and precious stones that will build the empires of tomorrow and make future cities of this world veritable New Jerusalems." Mr. Martin is anxious that the Anglo-Saxon races, which "have already 'cornered' four-fifths of the gold-producing mines of the world," shall be informed regarding Mexico's hidden treasures. Except for a saving clause introduced in his concluding

paragraphs, to the effect that even in Mexico "every recurring day has its delights and its delusions," one might infer that mining in Mexico is not a speculation, but a safe employment for trust funds.

---

*Report on the Physical Condition of Fourteen Hundred School Children of the City, together with Some Account of Their Homes and Surroundings.* City of Edinburgh Charity Organization Society. London: P. S. King & Son, 1906. 8vo. 5s.

Every care has been taken to make this investigation of the physical condition of fourteen hundred school children of Edinburgh thorough and searching. The work is an admirable example of painstaking gathering of statistics and of their effective presentation. In the case of each child the home was visited, answers to an elaborate schedule of questions were checked up by reports from all authorities accessible, and the whole was intelligently commented on by the investigator. The result is a most depressing account of economic and moral poverty, which, although the compiler attributes it to an excessive indulgence in strong drink, he claims is aggravated by unsystematic and indiscriminate charitable relief.

---

*Retaliatory Duties.* By H. DIETZEL. Translated by D. W. SIMON and W. OSBORNE BRIGSTOCKE for the Unionist Free Trade Club. London: Unwin, 1906. 8vo, pp. 128.

Professor Dietzel's thesis around which he has written this little treatise upon international trade policies, may be summed up in the words of Lord Salisbury to the effect that "retaliation is rational if by its means we can obtain freer access to foreign markets." The dangers of the policy, are, however, indicated; aside from self-inflicted injuries involved, they lie chiefly in the creation of vested interests under the retaliatory duties, which ultimately demand protection. Retaliatory duties thus tend by imperceptible degrees to become protective duties. Reciprocity is discussed as being practically one variant of the retaliative policy. In this connection the experience of Germany since 1891, with especial reference to the campaign of 1902 and the working of Bülow's policy of reciprocity is cited. Such a policy has, according to the author, a "twofold fatal effect," in stimulating the "outbreak of an international arming epidemic" of tariff legislation abroad, and at home in "unchaining hankerings after protection by exciting hopes of higher duties.